United Nations Conv[illegible] on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/249

Meeting of States Parties

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Declaration on the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

The Meeting of States Parties,

Recalling that the States that negotiated the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea were prompted by the desire to settle, in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation, all issues relating to the law of the sea and by their awareness of the historic significance of the Convention as an important contribution to the maintenance of peace, justice and progress for all peoples of the world,

Recalling also the crucial role played by Ambassador Arvid Pardo of Malta and, in particular, his visionary speech delivered on 1 November 1967 before the General Assembly, leading to the adoption of the Convention,

Recognizing the pre-eminent contribution provided by the Convention to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations in conformity with the principles of justice and equal rights and to the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples of the world, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to the sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Recalling the universal and unified character of the Convention and that it sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out,

1. *Welcomes* the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on 10 December 1982 at Montego Bay, Jamaica;

2. *Pays tribute* to the negotiators of the Convention from all States that participated in the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, and to all those who contributed to its adoption, entry into force, and universality;

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3. *Commends* the progress in the work of the International Seabed Authority, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the three organs established by the Convention;

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority to convene a special meeting during its eighteenth session to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention;

5. *Also welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to devote two days of plenary meetings at its sixty-seventh session, on 10 and 11 December 2012, to the consideration of the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea" and the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention;[1]

6. *Further welcomes* the activities to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention by the Secretary-General, States, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies;

7. *Invites* States Parties to make contributions to the established trust funds related to the law of the sea,[2] and encourages continued capacity-building initiatives in support of the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his annual reports on oceans and the law of the sea and for the high standard of the support provided by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to the work of the Meeting of States Parties and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf;

9. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.

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[1] Resolution 66/231, para. 245.

[2] Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in compliance with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (fund code: KUA); Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf from developing States in the meetings of the Commission (fund code: KJA); Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea (fund code: TLA/Project No. 9681); Voluntary Trust Fund to assist States in the settlement of disputes through the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (fund code: KFA); International Seabed Authority Endowment Fund; and International Seabed Authority Voluntary Trust Fund.